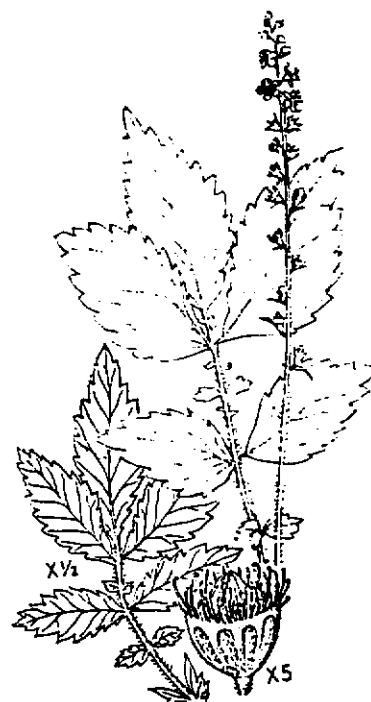


THREATENED PLANTS OF MASSACHUSETTS

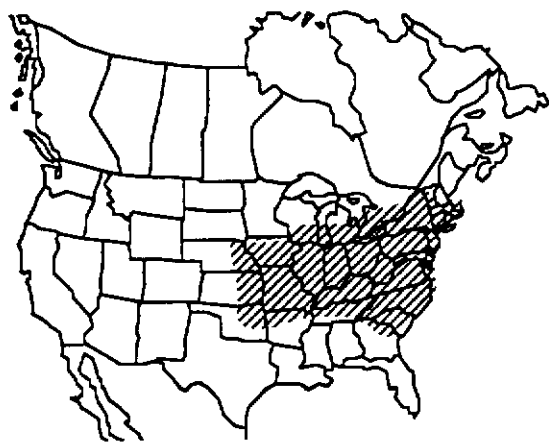
HAIRY AGRIMONY (*Agrimonia pubescens* Wallr.)

Description

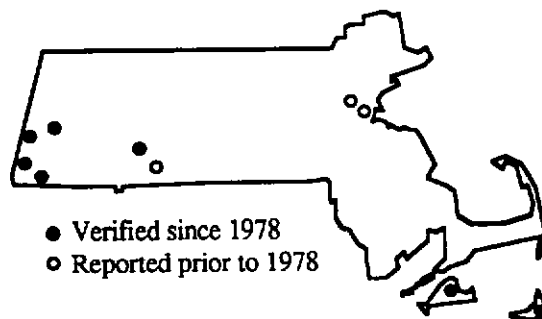
Hairy Agrimony, a member of the Rose family (Rosaceae), is an herbaceous perennial that grows from 0.3-1.5 m (1-5 ft.) in height. In Massachusetts, however, it is always less than 0.6 m (2 ft.) high. Its roots have tuber-like thickenings that taper at both ends. A generally hairy appearance gives *A. pubescens* its name: both the stem and the axes of the compound leaves are covered in soft hairs, and the alternate, pinnately compound leaves (with leaflets arranged on both sides of a common axis) are dark green above and velvety pubescent, or softly hairy, underneath. The 5-13 main leaflets of the principal leaves are oblong or elliptic, have forward-facing marginal teeth, and are interspersed with smaller leaflets. Hairy Agrimony's yellow flowers have five small petals and are arranged in long, slender racemes (elongate,



Gleason, H. A. The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the US & Adjacent Canada. NY Botanical Garden, 1952. Newcomb, L. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. 1977.



Documented Range of Hairy
Agrimony



Massachusetts Distribution by Town

unbranched inflorescences of stalked flowers). The mature hypanthium (tubular or cup-like structure formed by the fusion of the sepals, petals, and stamens) is 2.5-3 mm (5/50 - 6/50 in.) long.

Range

The documented range of *A. pubescens* extends from Massachusetts to Minnesota, and south to Georgia, Tennessee, and Kansas.

Similar Species

Similar species include Agrimony (*Agrimonia gryposepala*) and Woodland Agrimony (*A. striata*). Agrimony can be distinguished by many small glands on the flowering stem that can be seen with a hand lens. Woodland Agrimony can be distinguished by conspicuous glandular dots on the undersides of the leaves. Both these species are much larger than Hairy Agrimony, are an ordinary green in color, and have sparser, coarser hairs.

Habitat in Massachusetts

Examples of Hairy Agrimony habitat include medium-age or regenerating forests on limestone; oak-hickory-maple-pine woods on traprock; and a partially wooded, rocky ravine. Associated species include White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), White Wood Aster (*Aster divaricatus*), Heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*), Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpa bracteata*), and various species of *Carex* (members of the Sedge family). On the Massachusetts mainland, it occurs in rocky woods under oaks (*Quercus* spp.), hickories (*Carya* spp.) and Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). On Nantucket, it occurs on mesic knolls in a swamp, under Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*). In nearly every instance, Hairy Agrimony grows alongside a trail or other disturbed area; presumably it is adapted to frequent opening of the forest canopy.

Population Status

In Massachusetts, there are thirteen current stations (discovered or relocated since 1978) in six towns and six historical stations (unverified since 1978) in five towns. (Two towns contain both current and historical stations and are represented by one solid dot for each town on the town distribution map.) The species is presently listed as "Threatened" in the Commonwealth. It is also rare in Nebraska, South Dakota and South Carolina and was present historically in Vermont and Rhode Island.